

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the telephone interview granted to the applicant's attorney on January 25, 2005.

During that interview, the Examiner indicated that the foregoing amendments, as reflected in a proposed draft Amendment submitted by e-mail on January 21, 2005, would place the application in condition for allowance, subject to a final, updated search. The Examiner also indicated that the Sixth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, filed September 10, 2004, had now been considered and would not affect the allowability of these claims.

The foregoing amendments are identical to the amendments presented in the draft Amendment discussed at the interview, and are therefore believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Specifically, claims 56, 89-97, 107-118, 120-121, 139-141, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153 and 187 remain in this application and are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. All other claims have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in a separate continuation application.

Elections/Restrictions

Claims 175-183 were subject to an election requirement and deemed withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. These claims have now been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claim Objections

Claim 114 was objected to as having an incorrect dependency. The claim has been amended to properly recite dependency from claim 112 instead of claim 107.

Claim 95 was not objected to as having an incorrect dependency. Nevertheless, it has been amended to change the dependency from claim 93 to claim 94.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 135-138, 143-144, 150, 154-158, 161 and 164-174 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. These claims have now been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 76-97, 99-118, 120-134, 139-141, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 159-160, 162-163 and 184-185 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over various cited references. Claims 76-88, 99-106, 122-134, 159-160, 162-163 and 184-185 have now been cancelled, without prejudice. The other claims in this group remain in the application, but have either been amended to include the subject matter of an allowable claim as indicated below, or depend from a claim that now contains such allowable subject matter.

Claim 186 was indicated as being rejected on page 1 of the Office Action, but no specific grounds for rejection was noted in the body of the Office Action. Nevertheless, that claim has now been cancelled, without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 56 and 187 were allowed. These claims remain in the application.

Claims 98, 119, 142, 146, 148 and 152, were indicated as being allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, the applicants have rewritten these claims in independent form, in the following manner:

- The subject matter of claim 98 has been incorporated into independent claim 89. Claim 98 previously depended from claim 89.

- The subject matter of claim 119 has been incorporated into independent claim 107. Claim 119 previously depended from claim 107.

- The subject matter of claim 142 has been incorporated into independent claim 139. Claim 142 previously depended from claim 139.

- The subject matter of claim 146 has been incorporated into independent claim 145. Claim 146 previously depended from claim 145.

- The subject matter of claim 148 has been incorporated into independent claim 147. Claim 148 previously depended from claim 147.

- The subject matter of claim 152 has been incorporated into independent claim 151. Claim 152 previously depended from claim 151.

None of these amendments changes the scope of any allowable claims.

These claims, and all claims depending therefrom, are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

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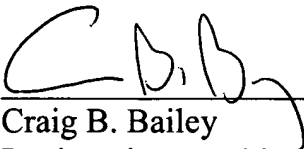
Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest and bone fide effort to place this case in immediate condition for allowance. A prompt Notice of Allowance will be appreciated.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Amendment, or any further suggestions for placing this application in condition for allowance, Applicants request the Examiner to contact the Applicants' attorney, Craig Bailey, at (310) 824-5555.

Respectfully submitted,

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